12th March 1955]

" (b) A load survey of Kottakkal, Malappuram, Manjeri and Perintalmanna villages was conducted as early as in 1950 but it was not found possible to evolve a remunerative extension proposal as per departmental standards till recently."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know the order of priority assigned to the scheme of extension of electricity to the villages mentioned in the answer of the Hon. Minister and when the scheme will materialise, whether in one year or in two years? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put. But the proposal is under consideration now."

Use of charcoal gas in motor vehicles.

* 1309 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state why the use of charcoal gas by motor vehicles has not been banned?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There is no need to prohibit producer gas-driven vehicles by any rule or regulation. The number of such vehicles has gone down considerably in recent years and producer gas-driven motor vehicles may disappear altogether in course of time. It is not also legally possible to prohibit producer gas-driven vehicles under the existing law."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the use of charcoal gas is depriving the Government of income under petrol causing denudation of precious forests, inconveniencing and irritating to the travelling public breaking the health of the drivers and conductors; and for all these reasons of paramount public importance, will the Hon. the Minister introduce legislation at least to control the remaining vehicles? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"As I said, from 1951 to 1954 nearly 3,700 vehicles have been rendered useless. The operators themselves do not want to run those buses. Therefore, in view of the present supply position with regard to petrol, there is not likely to be many gas plant vehicles running. In view of this there is no need for any legislation at all."

Minor irrigation works.

* 1310 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state why minor irrigation works have been transferred from the Revenue Department to the Public Works Department?